Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EPA-04 INT-05 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 PA-02 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /065 W

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P 230834Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6164

UNCLAS NAIROBI 4534

DEPT. PASS FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE/ASSOC. DIR. SCHREINER

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SENV,KE

SUBJ: REACTION TO U.S. PROPOSAL TO DETERMINE ELEPHANT AS THREATENED SPECIES

REF: STATE A-0389

1. DR. IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN, IUCN/WWF ELEPHANT SURVEY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON FISH AND WILDLIFE

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STATUS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT (REF.AIRGRAM).

2. THE IUCN ELEPHANT SPECIALIST GROUP STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT OPTION FOUR IS ADOPTED BECAUSE: (A) IT WOULD ENSURE THAN THE U.S. WOULD REMAIN

INVOLVED IN MONITORING THE INTERNATIONAL IVORY TRADE. A TOTAL BAN WOULD

ABSOLVE HER FROM ANY FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN CONTROLLING THE TRADE, WHICH

WOULD NEVERTHELESS STILL EXIST ELSEWHERE. (B) IT WOULD BE A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE CITES CONVENTION. (C) IT WOULD LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN

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FOR IVORY CARVERS AND TRADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SELF REGULATION OF THE

TRADE.

IVORY RESULTING FROM NATURAL MORTALITY COULD STILL SUPPLY THE CARVERS AND

CONTINUE TO BE A VALUABLE SOURCE OF REVENUE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

3. WE ARE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF ENFORCING OPTION FOUR BUT FEEL IT SHOULD BE GIVEN A TRIAL PERIOD. SHOULD IT FAIL MORE SWEEPING MEASURES COULD BE ENFORCED.

4. SHOULD OPTION ONE BE ADOPTED WE FEEL THAT IT SHOULD ONLY BE A TEMPORARY MEASURE. LE MELLE

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